

sound, Dr. R. thinks it chiefly occurs when the lining membrane of the heart itself is inflamed, in addition to the pericarditis.

The rubbing sound, like the creaking of new leather, Dr. R. is inclined to attribute to the effusion of lymph on the investing surface or surfaces. It appears to him very doubtful that it is owing to incipient adhesion.

"With respect to the treatment that was pursued in this man's case, you will remember he was bled twice from the arm, was cupped, and was leeches repeatedly: and though the rheumatic inflammation was considerably diminished, as the effect of the bleeding, yet still the heart never lost, to any considerable extent, its rubbing sound, until his system was put under the influence of mercury. As soon as his mouth became sore, Mr. Jones, who closely watched the case, observed that the rubbing sound diminished. This would probably have been the case sooner, but in consequence of the highly irritable condition of the mucous membrane of his bowels, we were obliged to suspend for some days the use of the mercury, and thus some considerable time was necessarily lost before his bowels resumed such a condition as to bear it; but so soon as his mouth became sore, the rubbing sound diminished. He was kept for some time under the influence of the mercury, and the sound entirely ceased. The treatment adopted was that which was proper for pericarditis generally. You will not find it perhaps always necessary to take blood from the arm in those cases which come into the hospital, because they do not often come here in the early stage. In this case it was absolutely necessary to take blood from the general system, but afterwards local depletion was principally depended upon."

Dr. R. observes that his success in the treatment of pericarditis is much greater now than it formerly was. The reason, he thinks, is, that he now keeps his patients longer in hospital, and suspects that he had often turned them out too soon—that is *apparently*, but not really cured.

"Having had an opportunity of seeing two or three such cases return to me with renewed inflammatory action, I have since that time adopted a different plan, viz. as long as there was this increased activity about the heart, as long as there was any thing like a bellows-sound, provided it was not of old standing, the result of former attacks, I have invariably thought it right to keep my patient for a greater length of time under the influence of mercury, and frequently from time to time to apply either leeches over the region of the heart, or cupping-glasses, so long as there was the slightest proof of insidious inflammation still existing; the consequence is, I may say in the three last cases the patients perfectly recovered."

When the heart remains irritable, after the inflammatory symptoms are subdued, he gives small doses of colchicum, either alone or in combination with digitalis—sometimes combined with henbane or opium.—*Med. Chirurg. Rev.* Oct. 1836.

10. *Creosote in various diseases.*—Creosote has been employed in the charity Hospital at Berlin it is stated in Dr. KÖHLER's annual report, in several cases of pulmonary and laryngeal consumption; against carcinoma of the uterus, chronic exanthemata, particularly the itch, and tooth-ache arising from carious teeth. It was generally administered in the form of pills, with the root of the marsh-mallow, and liquorice juice, commencing with half a grain morning and evening, which dose was gradually increased to eight grains, so that the patient had sometimes taken more than 120 grains in three weeks. Externally this remedy was administered in a solution of a drachm to six, eight, or ten ounces of water. The general effects of creosote on consumptive patients were far from being favourable. Given in the various stages of the complaint, it increased the fever and number of pulsations, aggravated the cough and dyspnoea, without easing the expectoration, or changing the quantity and quality of the sputa; it moreover increased the tendency to hæmoptysis, and diminished the secretion of the urine. The digestive functions were seldom deranged during its use; in one case only, the occurrence of severe vomiting on the eleventh day rendered it necessary to suspend the medicine altogether. From its stimulating action on the circulating system, and the increase of fever which it produced, the creosote frequently brought on rapid sinking of the general strength, and the patient died in a very unexpected manner at an early period. In one case it evidently pro-

moted the developement of a dropsical affection, by diminishing the urinary secretion. This remedy never seemed to act as a palliative, much less as a radical means of cure, in the treatment of phthisis, for of twelve patients submitted to its use some died within the space of three weeks, and the rest immediately after its suspension. In one patient, affected with a complication of universal syphilis and laryngeal phthisis, the former complaint was much aggravated during the treatment. The same unfavourable results were obtained by the experiments made with the creosote lotion in cases of carcinoma uteri. The disease continued to march without any modification, while no change took place in the discharge, the pains were remarkably increased, and the hæmorrhage continued without any abatement. It was also employed as a lotion, (one drachm to ten ounces of water,) in cases of chronic exanthema, and gave rise to acute burning sensation and injection of the integuments, until the skin became, as it were, accustomed to its use. One case of *impetigo sparsa* of the lower extremities, which had existed for several years, was cured within eight weeks; but it produced no effect in a case of *impetigo scabida* of the face and arms. In several cases the creosote cured scabies within eight days. It acted in the most remarkable manner on the pain arising from carious teeth; the application of a small quantity with a bit of wool to the carious cavity invariably produced cessation of the pain within a few minutes.—*Lancet and Rust's Magazine*, Bd. 46.

11. *Chlorate of Potass in Phthisis*.—This substance, Dr. KÖHLER states to have been also employed, in the Berlin hospital, in 25 cases of tubercular phthisis, in the following form:—℞ *Kali chlorinici*, 5j. Dissolve in *distilled water*, four ounces, and add of the syrup of *marsh-mallow*, one ounce. *M. D. S.* A table-spoonful to be taken four times a day.

Whenever the medicine was well supported by the stomach, it was carried to one and a half or two drachms. Four of the patients submitted to this remedy were of the climacteric age; the rest, though younger, had all passed the period of puberty. All the patients had arrived at the second stage of the complaint; in only one case the disease was at its commencement, and at another it had reached the colliquative stage. The effects were very similar to those of creosote. It increased the pulse and cough, and produced pain in the chest and bloody sputa, without improving the expectoration. In addition to this it acted in an unfavourable manner on the digestion, diminishing the appetite, producing pain in the abdomen, and watery diarrhœa, and, in many cases, it became necessary at once to lay the remedy aside. The secretion of urine was rather increased than diminished. It was, however, much better supported when united with some digitalis, or cherry-laurel water, or, in case of purging and colic being produced, with *laudanum*. The duration of the treatment varied from eight days to eight weeks, and more. Of the 25 patients 19 died, and four were left unrelieved; of the two remaining, a woman, whose disease seemed rather to be ulcerated phthisis, (*phyc. ulcerata*), and a man, above 30 years of age, the hectic fever and expectoration gradually diminished, and thence disappeared; the appetite became improved, and with it the patient's strength, and at length the cure seemed perfect. The man's case was entirely lost sight of; however, the woman was seen by Dr. Köhler a long time afterwards in the best health. Although the general result of the experiments made with this latter remedy was unfavourable, yet the author thinks it should be admitted amongst the number of medicines useful in pulmonary phthisis, though its stimulating action on the circulating and pulmonary systems cannot be denied. Its use is contra-indicated in cases where the fever runs high, where there is any sign of inflammation of the lungs, or any tendency to hæmoptysis.—*Ibid.*

12. *Nitrate of Strychnine in Paralysis*.—Dr. KÖHLER states that this article has been employed in the Berlin Hospital, in several cases of paralysis, arising either from cerebral hæmorrhage, poisoning with lead, rheumatism, or tabes. The eighth of a grain was mixed with ten grains of sugar, and one powder given daily, at the commencement. After a lapse of eight or ten days, or when the remedy seemed to produce little or no effect, the same quantity was administered twice a day. The highest dose taken was half a grain morning and evening; but this quantity soon brought on violent convulsions. Neither the small nor the